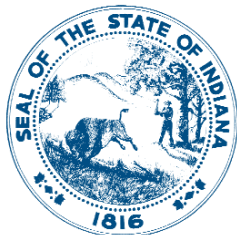


# Bill Crawford

Indiana State Representative, District 98



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Spring, 2002

Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session has ended. While we passed several important pieces of legislation, I am disappointed we did not reach agreement on a major tax restructuring plan or address the state budget deficit.

I voted for a plan in the House that would have offset expected property tax increases, created a better climate for economic growth and addressed the current state budget deficit intensified by the national recession. I believe this proposal, while not perfect, answered some of the questions about fairness and equity that have long plagued our tax systems.

I thought we should confront these issues now rather than later if we are to avoid cutting important state services, including funding for public education. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Indiana House and Senate did not share this opinion, and we were unable to establish a compromise in the closing days of the session. It concerns me that the Republicans are unwilling to do anything to address the short-term financial stability of our state. I remain hopeful that we can reach some consensus on these issues in the coming months before deeper, more painful cuts become necessary.

Despite my concerns about the budget deficit and taxes, I am pleased we did enact several proposals to help a variety of Hoosiers. We passed landmark public safety and anti-terrorism legislation, enacted important provisions that protect children and approved several health care initiatives. I have detailed a number of those new laws inside this newsletter.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about state government. You can e-mail me at H98@in.gov or call 232-9600.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

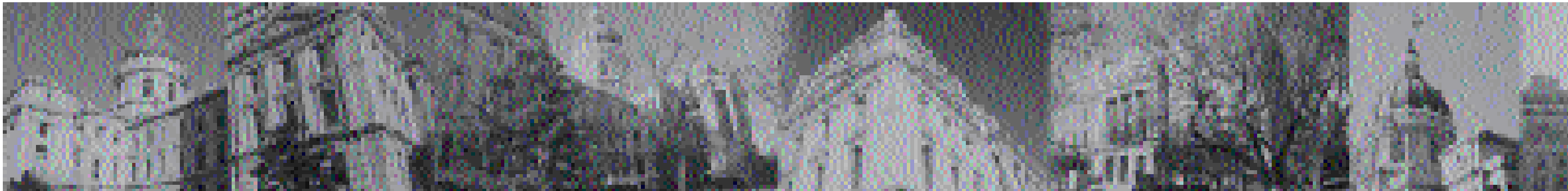


**Inside**

•Anti-terrorism laws

•Protecting children

•Health care initiatives



Other laws  
address terrorism  
and its aftermath

Aircraft  
offenses

Senate Bill 10 permits the use of reasonable force to stop a person from hijacking or seizing unlawful control of an aircraft in flight. The bill also makes it a felony to enter a secured area of an airport, use force or violence to hijack an aircraft in flight or commit criminal confinement on an aircraft.

Nerve agents

Last year's anthrax scare evidenced the need for greater security against chemical and biological warfare. House Bill 1029 requires the adoption of rules to establish training and certification standards to allow emergency medical technicians in certain counties to administer antidotes for exposure to VX nerve agents.

Victim tax relief

For those personally affected by the events of September 11, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 50, which excludes from state income tax any compensation paid to an attack victim's spouse or child.



REP. C. CRAWFORD  
ADDRESSES THE HOUSE.

Legislature stands together on  
public safety legislation

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat. The members of the Indiana General Assembly passed several laws during this session to help meet the challenge of our new defense requirements.

House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) that will serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, the council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counterterrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop an integrated wireless public safety system to help connect agencies across the state in case of an emergency. A portion of the serv-

ice charge will also be used to alleviate the state police crime laboratory backlog.

The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of commercial driver's licenses and hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices, the possession of a weapon of mass destruction or the intent to cause a person to believe that a substance is a weapon of mass



THIS AMERICAN FLAG HANGS IN THE ROTUNDA OF  
THE STATEHOUSE.

destruction

- disorderly conduct on airport premises
- interruption or impairment of work at a food processing facility
- the expulsion of a student who brings a destructive device on school property.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.

Child Care Issues

I sponsored Senate Bill 246, which addressed a number of issues related to child care providers.

It prohibits the state police from charging a fee for a limited criminal history record requested by a community mental retardation and other developmental disabilities centers or by a supervised group living facility.

It also prohibits federal reimbursement and licensure of certain child care providers based on criminal histories of providers, employees, volunteers and household members. A child care provider must also submit to drug testing results to determine eligibility for voucher payments.

The legislation also prohibits voucher payments or licensure for a child care provider convicted of operating a child care without a license.

Minimum death  
penalty age now 18

I co-sponsored Senate Bill 426 to raise the minimum age to 18 to receive a death sentence.

The legislation also prevents a judge from overriding a jury's decision in a death penalty or life without parole proceeding. Governor O'Bannon signed Senate Bill 426 into law.

Rep. Crawford has successful session  
with passage of three bills into law

I was pleased that four bills I authored this short session were approved by both the House and the Senate. Governor O'Bannon signed three of those bills and vetoed the fourth.

House Bill 1143 expands the definition of educational facility project to permit the Indiana Development Finance Authority to provide funding to certain nonprofit corporations for real property and improvements, personal property, and noncapital costs to fund a judgment, settlement or other cost or liability.

House Bill 1259 addresses a number of hospital issues. It removes the political affiliation requirements to be appointed to the governing boards of county hospitals and certain municipal hospitals. It addresses a number of other areas, including executive session procedures, governing board appointments and hospital operation.

House Bill 1257 contained matters related to charter schools and property taxation. It authorized charter schools in Indianapolis that are sponsored by the mayor to do financing through the Indianapolis Bond Bank. It also allows charter schools other than those in Indianapolis sponsored by the mayor to do financing through the state bond bank.

The legislation also allows the Indianapolis City County Council to negotiate with property owners the amount of payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) charged to properties that are partially or totally exempt under the federal low income housing tax credit program.

House Bill 1258 passed both the House and the Senate but was vetoed by Governor O'Bannon. It would have modified additional reimbursements to nursing facilities that are owned or operated by a government entity through a series of initiatives through the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning.

Other Legislation

I co-authored House Bill 1159, which was authored by Rep. Mae Dickinson (D-Indianapolis). It increased the membership on the Governor's Commission on Minority and Women's Business Enterprises from six to nine members.

Finally, the House overturned the veto of Governor O'Bannon on House Bill 1207, which I authored and passed through the 2001 session. That bill, which now becomes law, will require mandatory testing of all new inmates for hepatitis C and HIV. It allows the Department of Correction to require testing for those inmates who were incarcerated before the effective date of the bill as well.



REP. CRAWFORD DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH REP. CHARLIE BROWN.

## Telephone Privacy List still available

If you haven't yet registered for the Telephone Privacy List, you still have time. Although the list is already in effect, it is updated every three months. If you register now, your name will be included when the updated list takes effect July 1, 2002.

The Telephone Privacy List is free to Indiana residents. By adding your name, most telemarketers will be prevented by law from calling you. You only need to register once to be included.

### How to register

You may register by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-834-9969. You may also register online at the Attorney General's Website. Go to [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral) and scroll down the page until you come to the ringing phone icon. This will take you to the Telephone Privacy List page. Click on the link that says "Register Here," and fill out the registration form.

### Certain exceptions

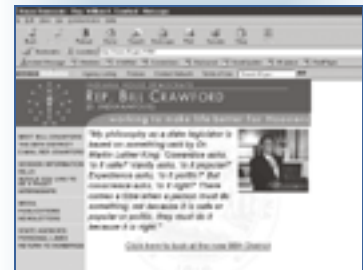
Registering with the Telephone Privacy List will not eliminate all telemarketing calls. Four types of solicitors are exempt from the law: Charitable organizations using volunteers or employees to make calls; newspapers using employees to make calls; insurance agents; and realtors.

### Violations

If you receive a telemarketing call from someone other than the exceptions listed above after the list becomes effective, you may down-

load a complaint form from the Attorney General's Website or call 1-812-355-5915. If a company is in violation, the Attorney General's Office may issue a court order to prevent further calls and may seek a fine of up to \$25,000.

**Stay informed about this  
and other issues online  
with Rep. Crawford**



**Web: [www.in.gov/H98](http://www.in.gov/H98)**

**E-mail: [H98@in.gov](mailto:H98@in.gov)**



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